

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Baptist basketball team scores big in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP) — Ngonie Mukukura made sure he didn't miss the opportunity to show his appreciation to his new friends.

The 21-year-old native of Harare, Zimbabwe, was waiting outside the Prince Edward High School dormitory at 7:30 a.m. on the last day of the International Sports Federation's (ISF) basketball tour. He had something to tell the 10-member basketball team.

"I want to thank you for telling me about Jesus Christ," Mukukura said. "Today I am a new man because of what you shared with me. I am now your brother in Christ and I want to tell you how grateful I am."

Mukukura was one of more than 1,200 Zimbabweans who accepted Christ during the ISF team's two-week tour. The team traveled from Harare to Mutare to Bulwayo and back to the nation's capital from Aug. 20 to Sept. 2, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through exhibition games and basketball clinics.

The team, made up of former American collegiate players, was successful on the court and off, finishing 7-0 on the tour. The record included three conquests of the Zimbabwean national team, a victory over the Malawi national team, and three wins over club teams from the three cities.

But winning wasn't the focus of the ISF tour. Working in concert with Zimbabwean ISF representative Fred Sorrells, the team hoped to build relationships with the Zimbabwean team by helping it prepare for the 48-nation All-Africa Games, making contacts with other African countries and spreading the good news across the width and breadth of the nation.

Sorrells was certain the mission was accomplished.

"This is just what we needed," Sorrells said. "The work of this team was so important in establishing our credibility in Africa. Because of the work these young men did, we have a base to grow from in Africa."

The team was the seventh commissioned to go overseas by the ISF and its sponsoring organization, the Brotherhood Commission

of the Southern Baptist Convention. It also was the most effective.

"This was the best team we've taken out," said ISF coach Scott Matthews, a former player and assistant coach at Mary Hardin-Baylor University, Belton, Texas. "The guys were flexible, they were bold in sharing their faith, and they were excellent on the court. We couldn't have asked for a better group to go out and share Christ."

On game days, players and coaches arrived at the arenas early for shoot-arounds and fellowship time with fans and opposing players. At halftime, two players shared their testimonies and Randy Shepherd of Crossfire Ministries, Asheville, N.C., closed the evangelical time by putting on a ball-handling exhibition and sharing the plan of salvation. Decisions were recorded and information sheets were filled out and given to local pastors for follow-up.

During clinics in high-density suburban areas, players shared basketball instruction and the good news with youth and adults alike.

The clinics normally were followed by scrimmages with local club teams. They proved to be catalysts for one-on-one evangelism.

"I can't preach," said 6-foot-3-inch ISF point-guard Bryant Bond, "but I can play basketball and make some friends while I'm doing it. I feel like God used my talents to make some special things happen."

Despite the number of decisions and the success on the court, the tour was not without its challenges. Just three days prior to the team's departure from Dallas, Matthews wasn't exactly sure who would be on the

trip. Job and school commitments made the team's recruitment a difficult proposition.

Bryant Bond, a native of Houston, was a last-minute replacement for Melvin Adams, who was under consideration for the Harlem Globetrotters' international traveling team. Matt Nelson joined the ISF tour at the last minute as well after making sure an African friend, new to the United States, was being cared for.

For both players, their inclusion on the trip was not viewed as accidental, but providential.

"It was obvious God wanted me on this trip," said Bond, who played college basketball at Cameron (Okla.) University. "He wanted me to see the needs in this world. He wanted to use me."

The ISF team also was used to make an impact on the lives of the Malawi national team, who traveled with the Americans for a week of the tour. Three members of the team became Christians as a result of the influence of the ISF.

"Our guys needed this," said Jack Sears, a Baptist missionary in Blantyre, Malawi, who ministers to the team by officiating their games and helping them refine their basketball skills. "They needed to see people living their faith and that's what they got with the ISF team."

One of the highlights of the ISF trip was a visit to the rural village of Nyazura, 70 kilometers from the mountain town of Mutare. The players showed Nyazura's residents a little about basketball, shared the

message of Jesus Christ, and helped Godfrey Galfes, the pastor of the city's Baptist church, lay a foundation to reach others.

"You really see how much you have in the United States when you come out here and visit with these folks," said Willie Black, a former standout at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. "We have everything and we're not happy. These people have nothing and they have a smile on their face. They want to know about Jesus. They want to be his disciples."

A willingness to hear about Jesus was a characteristic the team found throughout Zimbabwe. This open attitude made sharing their faith easy for the players.

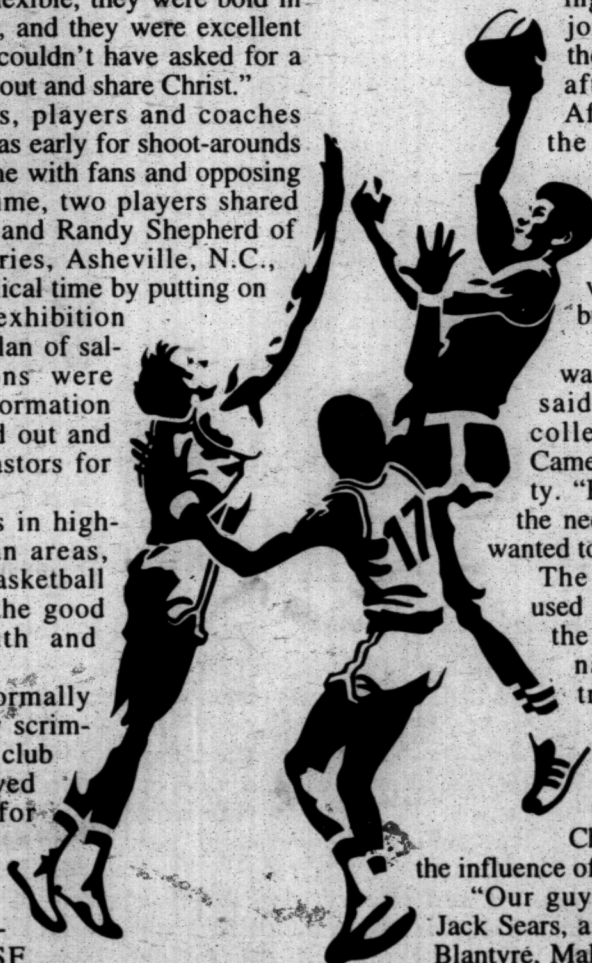
"One thing I'll always remember about this trip was sharing my faith for the first time," said Devlin Bell, a native of Detroit. "I'm a young Christian, but I'm trying to grow. Being able to give your testimony is a part of that growth. It helped me that the people we met were so open to Christ."

Growth for the ISF players came in many different areas. The players learned to adjust to culture shock, the Zimbabwean diet, and fatigue brought on by too many games, too many miles, and too little sleep. But when the group's plane touched down in Atlanta Sept. 3, there weren't any complaints.

"This was the trip of a lifetime," Bond said. "These were some of the best days of my life. I think everyone should go on this kind of mission trip. There's no doubt you'll want to go back. I sure do."

The experience was not only an encouragement to the players, but also to the missionaries they worked with on the tour. Short-term volunteers like the ISF team not only help with the mission tasks, but also revitalized the missionaries.

"They got me pumped again," Sears said. "Sometimes, foreign missionaries feel isolated out on the field. When volunteers come overseas to help out, even if it's just for a week or two, it lets us know our Southern Baptists at home care about what we're doing. It lets us know we're not doing



Forewarned, forearmed

Churches that wink at implementing strict child worker screenings are in for a rough ride in the future, warns Richard Hammar, a Springfield, Mo., attorney and author of **Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church**. Organizations such as Big Brother and the Boy Scouts of America have imposed tough screening to successfully weed out pedophiles. That means more perverts are turning to churches for young victims. "These organizations have reduced their risk. When these people find out they will be screened, they can easily access churches because so many (churches) are desperate for workers," Hammar said. A single incident can devastate the child and his/her family, expose the church to massive negative publicity, and result in a multi-million dollar award in court, Hammar pointed out. "Assume that an incident of abuse occurs at your church, and that the minister is asked to testify during the trial. The victim's lawyer asks, 'What did you or your staff do to prevent this tragedy from occurring?' If the answer is 'nothing'... the only question in jurors' minds at this point is the size of the verdict," Hammar said.

Faith in action

Most people who ran across John Hunt at the hospital on the day his wife had cancer surgery probably thought he was the one in need of hope, but he didn't see it that way. As a matter of fact, he felt exactly the opposite. "The doctors were doing everything they could, and through faith we knew God was doing everything he could in surgery, so I had a peace and a knowledge that everything works out for the best," said the Lexington, Ky., college administrator. With that out of the way, the Southern Baptist deacon spent most of the day witnessing to hospital personnel, leading two lab technicians to accept Jesus while he sat in a waiting room during the surgery. "That episode in the hospital waiting room is a truly remarkable experience. It shows us what God want us to do (and) what our priorities should be." Hunt has had many more opportunities to witness as his wife, Judy, continues to respond positively to chemotherapy. "We should be thankful and tell others about this hope we have. Just think, the Creator loves us enough to send his Son to die for us," he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The new 100,000 square-foot Medical Arts Plaza, built on the original site of the vacant and recently-demolished Baptist Hospital, joins the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center complex on State Street in Jackson.

20 years ago

Mississippians Jerry and Bobbye Rankin, missionaries for four years on the Indonesian island of Java, are furloughing with their children Lori, 6, and Rusty, 5, at the missionary home of First Church, Clinton.

50 years ago

Mississippi Governor Thomas L. Bailey lauds Salem Church in Covington County for the contributions members make to the quality of the area's rural life. "Salem Church is the church I have been looking for," he says.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



The cultivation of cooperation

The vehicle of cooperation has hit a bone-jarring pothole along the missionary highway. Southern Baptists have been "surprised, furious, appalled, stunned, livid," and ashamed by the flurry of letters, news releases, and articles related to Jerry Rankin's letter. It was sent out to 40,000 pastors/WMU leaders by Rankin, the Foreign Mission Board president.

Apparently, the Foreign Mission Board trustees leaned heavily on Rankin to rebuke the WMU for printing mission education supplements for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). He sent out a letter that was "inflammatory, misleading, and divisive" said WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien. Rankin answered, "we are only concerned for the support of our missionaries."

Rankin accused the WMU of having abandoned its "historic role of exclusive support" of FMB and HMB missionaries. WMU said this is not so. O'Brien said "99.9% of what we do is, and will

remain, related to home and foreign missions." Rankin responded that he was surprised at their reaction and was only seeking to affirm the support of the WMU.

This is a strange way to affirm a partner in missions and supposedly the WMU should be grateful he was not attacking them.

Meanwhile, the stage became crowded as other Baptist leaders were surprised, angered, and livid. Very few have been inspired by this exchange. One lamented that, "so much time and energy are wasted in opposing our Baptist brothers and sisters." Another predicted a "negative impact on the Lottie Moon offering" and yet another said "the WMU does not belong to the FMB" and "Who is undermining a cooperative spirit... it is those who are determined to control us all... to direct us as only God has the authority to direct."

We have some strong, vehement trustees serving various agencies who are paranoid about

the CBF. Leave the CBF alone. If their movement is of the Lord, then you can't stop it; if it is not, it will fade in due time. Let's concentrate on our task.

Cooperation, trust, and confidence are casualties in this battle. Two faithful servants of the Lord, Jerry Rankin and Dellanna O'Brien, are in confrontation. Some trustees and even some SBC leaders are out to minimize the WMU. Where will it end? Is the Lord pleased with the results?

Cooperation does not just naturally surface. Someone has to push it, work at it, and be willing to sacrifice for it. Like the first grader said, "It all started when he hit me back."

That is hardly the leading principle of a cooperative venture. Cooperation includes a willingness to give a little, to compromise where possible, but above all to trust each other. Southern Baptists have accomplished much with cooperation. Let's not abandon it now.

World Hunger Day, Oct. 8 — SBC agencies bolster hunger relief efforts through local church gifts

By Richard D. Land and C. Ben Mitchell

"Send relief unto the brethren"
(Acts 11:29)

The church at Antioch is a marvelous model for 21st century ministry. At Antioch the gospel of the resurrected Christ was preached without regard to ethnicity (Acts 11:20). At Antioch the believers were grounded in the Word of the living God (Acts 11:26). At Antioch missionaries were commissioned and sent out (Acts 13:2,3).

Tucked away, almost unnoticeable, is another fact that marks Antioch as a church to be imitated. In Acts 11:27 we find that Agabus prophesied a great famine. Luke, the physician, comments that this famine actually took place during the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54). According to scholars there were many famines during this period, but the historian Josephus wrote of a great famine in Judea in the days of Claudius such that "many people died for want of what was necessary to procure food withal."

At Antioch believers acted courageously and sacrificially to meet the needs of suffering persons. They—(1) heard of the need, (2) determined in their hearts to

give, and (3) moved to action. Each person "gave according to his ability" (v. 29). And they "sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul" (v. 30).

As we approach the threshold of the Third Millennium, let us follow the ancient pattern of the church at Antioch. The needs are great. Famine, floods, and other disasters still plague our world. Tonight nearly 1 billion people will go to bed hungry.

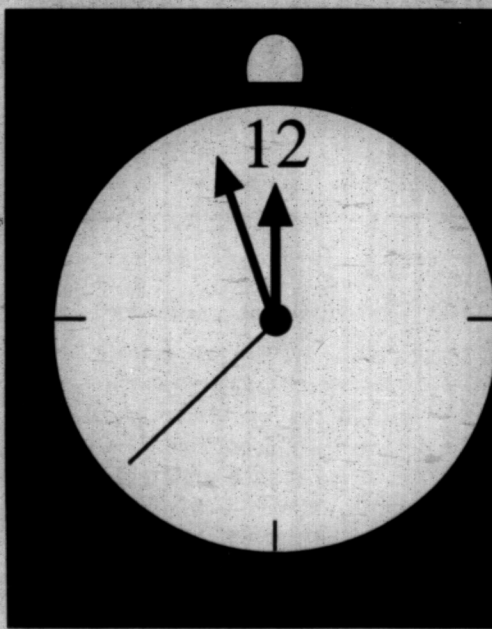
Decide in your heart to give according to your ability. For about 40 cents a day the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board can feed an Ethiopian child three meals of porridge. A little goes a long way; a lot goes farther.

Send your gifts through your local congregation to the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign and Home Mission boards. Why? Because every dollar you give goes for hunger and relief. All overhead and administrative costs are paid for by the Cooperative Program and not through hunger and relief funds.

One final note about the Antioch church. It is interesting to notice that there is no record of squabbles, heresy, or debauchery in the Antioch church. Most of the

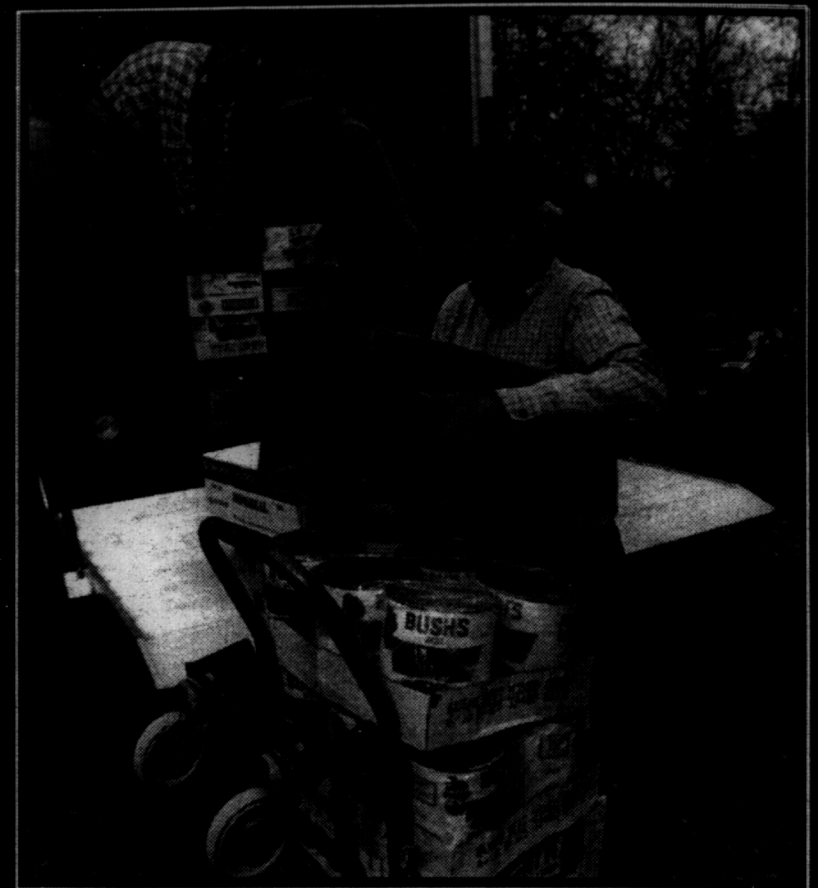
churches in the New Testament era had problems. Apparently, not so at Antioch. Presumably, they were too busy "doing the Word" to fuss, fight, and feud with one another. A lost and dying world was waiting for someone to "send relief unto the brethren."

Land is executive director, and Mitchell is biomedical and life issues consultant, for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.



'Send relief unto the brethren'

(Acts 11:29)



Observe World Hunger Day

October 8, 1995

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

THE FRAGMENTS



A different level

Years ago I flew over much of South Korea in a helicopter. The roads below me were in terrible shape (the country now has an interstate), but I didn't feel a thing in the aircraft. Below there were road blocks, rivers, fences, rock walls, and mountains. At 1,500 feet all the barriers, obstacles, and walls disappeared into the landscape. The wind was usually blowing and the barriers and man-made obstacles could not stop it.

So is the power of the Holy Spirit. He goes where he pleases and nothing can stop him. Jesus said the wind goes where it pleases; the psalmist said, "He walks on the wings of the wind" (Ps. 104:3).

We may face heavy difficulties and see the man-made obstacles at ground level. Just remember there is a higher level. We can walk with him on the wings of the wind. — GH

United States...

...born into poverty.
...becomes a mother.
...infant mortality.
...of five die.
...place.
...on the street.
...labor.
...girls)
...education.

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GOP presidential hopefuls line up to address Christian Coalition

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Christian Coalition flexed its political muscles as a parade of Republican presidential hopefuls sought the support of the 4,000 conservative activists attending the organization's fifth annual meeting.

The Sept. 8-10 "Road to Victory" conference in Washington, D.C., firmly established that the six-year-old organization — which received much credit for helping Republicans gain control of Congress in the 1994 elections — will be a key player in the GOP's aims to secure the White House in 1996.

In a keynote address, the Christian Coalition founder, televangelist Pat Robertson, said the organization is well on its way to

a goal of gaining substantial influence, if not outright control, of Republican Party apparatus in all 50 states.

Robertson said one of the goals he set when starting the coalition in 1989 was to elect a "conservative majority" in both houses of Congress by 1996, a deadline Robertson said was reached two years ahead of schedule. Another original goal was to elect a "conservative president" by 1996, which Robertson said is now attainable.

He also wanted the organization to have "a significant voice" in one of the political parties by 1994, a goal undoubtedly attained by the movement, which claims 1.7 million members nationwide.

Robertson cited a 1994 maga-

zine article which described the coalition as "dominant" in Republican parties in 18 states and "substantial" in 13 more.

"That's 31 states," Robertson said. And while the organization is capable right now of putting together a grass-roots network that is unparalleled, "we are only a portion of the way there," he continued.

"We must complete the job in all 50 states," he said. "I'm glad to see all this that they say about 31, but that leaves, my goodness, a lot more. We've got more work to do. I like 100%, not 60 or 70."

Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed, while extolling the group's political influence, sought to distance the movement from partisan politics.

He vowed the grass-roots organization would never become "a wholly owned subsidiary of the Republican Party."

"We do not bear the name of Ronald Reagan or Bob Dole or Newt Gingrich," Reed said. "We bear the name which is above every name. We bear the name to which every knee shall bend."

All but two of the nine GOP candidates, plus House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), addressed the annual meeting of Reed's group, which formed six years ago as an offshoot of Robertson's failed bid for the presidency.

Only Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, who has strongly criticized the Religious Right's influence in the party, wasn't invited. Specter reportedly fought, both before and during the three-day meeting, for a chance to speak to challenge the group's opposition to abortion.

California Gov. Pete Wilson, who like Specter is pro-choice, was invited to speak but said he could not attend because of state business.

A speech by former television commentator Pat Buchanan was interrupted by applause several times for comments like, "We don't need some secular humanist in sandals and beads at the Department of Education telling us how to educate our children."

Along with seeking a ban on late-term abortions and cutting off all federal funding for abortion and family-planning groups that advocate abortions, the Christian Coalition's legislative agenda includes measures to protect voluntary prayer in public schools, end public funding for the arts and humanities, eliminate the Education Department, and enact a

\$500-per-child tax credit.

Reed said the Christian Coalition must not become just another special-interest group, like the AFL-CIO and feminist leaders have become for the Democrats. "They are no longer servants, they are power brokers," he said. "We will not become what they have become."

"Politics for us is a mission field, not a smoke-filled room," Reed said.

The conference provided a lightning rod for critics of the coalition's conservative agenda. Joan Campbell-Brown, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, warned "all candidates for public office" that "there are far more religious Americans who profoundly disagree with Pat Robertson's vision for America than agree with it."

"I assure you we will be working very hard to make sure those majority voices are heard on election day," she said.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, an advocacy group often at odds with the Christian Coalition, said: "Ralph Reed told one truth during his speech, that he doesn't want the Christian Coalition to be a subsidiary of the Republican Party. Instead, he wants the Republican Party to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Christian Coalition."

"This is still Pat Robertson's organization," Lynn said, "and he still wants a Christian America."

Reed, however, told **USA Today** he takes issue with "those who would suggest that religion and politics don't mix."

"We don't pretend to be mainstream. We are mainstream," Reed added.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Volunteers needed...

Relief efforts begin after Virgin Islands hurricane

MEMPHIS (From staff and wire reports) — Southern Baptists have opened a "second front" in their efforts to minister in the hurricane-ravaged Caribbean region.

An Airbus A-300 jetliner chartered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was scheduled to leave Atlanta Sept. 18 en route to St. Thomas and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, hit by Hurricane Marilyn Sept. 16.

The storm left at least nine people dead and many others were reported missing.

Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said Mississippians interested in volunteering for the relief effort should contact Beth Honeycutt at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis at (800) 280-1891.

The FEMA plane is carrying two airlift kitchens and volunteers to operate them for the next two weeks, plus an American Red Cross advance team.

The kitchens, one readied by Texas Baptist Men and the other by the Alabama Convention's Brotherhood Department, will provide support at American Red Cross shelters.

Each unit is capable of provid-

ing up to 10,000 meals per day.

The units will be staffed by nine Alabama volunteers and six Texas volunteers.

Rusty Griffin, assistant vice president of program services for the Brotherhood Commission, is serving as on-site coordinator.

The Brotherhood Commission coordinates initial and multi-state disaster responses, while the Home Mission Board in Atlanta is responsible for long-term recovery efforts.

Units for feeding and childcare are owned by the Brotherhood Departments of state Baptist conventions and by local associations and churches.

The MBCB Brotherhood Department coordinates initial and multi-state disaster relief efforts in Mississippi.

Those who wish to make donations for disaster relief may send contributions to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104; or to the Home Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202. Designate the gift for hurricane relief.

The Brotherhood Commission continues to seek volunteers to serve on construction crews in Antigua and St. Maarten, hit by Hurricane Luis in early September. The arrival date for initial teams is Sept. 30.

This effort is under the banner of Southern Baptist World Relief and in conjunction with the Foreign Mission Board.

Prospective volunteers should call (800) 280-1891 for more information.

Pastor dies of injuries after Ga. plane crash

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Gulf Coast pastor Steven R. Wilkinson, 34, died in Atlanta Sept. 18 after suffering severe burns in the Aug. 21 crash of a commuter airplane en route from Atlanta to Gulfport.

Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association, said Wilkinson succumbed to kidney and liver failure at about 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 while a patient in the burn unit of Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

Wilkinson, former pastor of Popp's Ferry Church in Biloxi, survived the crash of the Atlantic Southeast Airlines flight but suffered first, second, and third degree burns over a large area of his body.

He was returning from a visit with a pastor search committee in Illinois when the Brazilian-made Embraer 120 crash-landed in a farm field five miles southwest of Carrollton, Ga., with 26 passengers and three crew members aboard.

Four people were killed in the crash, and at least three others have since died of injuries

received in the accident. Several other passengers remain in serious condition in hospitals around the Atlanta area.

Eyewitnesses reported the 66-foot-long aircraft broke in half behind the cockpit and caught fire moments after it slammed into the ground. Many of the passengers escaped from the plane's mangled fuselage but were seriously burned.

News reports indicate federal investigators searching for clues to the cause of the crash are focusing on an engine propeller that may have broken loose in flight and damaged the engine. No official determination has been announced.

Wilkinson, who was single, received a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1986. He was also a graduate of Mississippi College and Gulfport High School.

Perry said Wilkinson's parents, who reside on the Gulf Coast, were returning from Atlanta Sept. 19 and funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time.

"Hunger in the Homeland" video is must-see

In connection with the Southern Baptist observance of World Hunger Day on Oct. 8, 1995, the Christian Life Commission (CLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention has released a just-completed video entitled, "Within Your Reach: Hunger in the Homeland."

Richard D. Land, CLC executive director, said the video "is not another 'ain't it bad and don't we all know it' video. Instead, the video includes testimonies from individuals and churches who are making a difference."

Featured on the video is Truett Cathey of Atlanta, founder of the Chick-Fil-A restaurant chain.

"Mr. Cathey is giving himself in openhanded ministry to the poor and needy. His testimony alone makes the video worth watching," Land said.

The VHS-format video is 25 minutes in length and costs \$19.95.

New world hunger bulletin inserts, fact sheets, posters, and a sermon outline are also available from CLC.

For order information, contact CLC at 901 Commerce #550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696. Telephone: (615) 244-2495 or fax (615) 242-0065.



Honduras relief

A group of 12 Mississippians from Southaven, Batesville, and Clinton were part of a spiritual/medical mission trip to Gracias, Honduras, during the second week in August. The spiritual team spoke at a high school, junior high school, churches, and a prison, resulting in almost 400 decisions for Christ. The medical team pulled 300 teeth and saw 365 patients. The group also distributed 3,584 Spanish Bibles purchased by the Aubrey Moore Class of First Church, Batesville. (Photo by Donnie South)

Hankins tapped for Ex. Comm. post

NASHVILLE (BP) — David E. Hankins was recommended for a new position, vice president for convention policy, of the Executive Committee when it met Sept. 18-20, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer.

Hankins, 45, served eight years on the Executive Commit-

tee, including two as chairman, and for the past 10 years has been pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La.

Chapman recommended the new executive position, in part to provide staff leadership necessary for developing and implementing the "Covenant for a New Century" transition plan for the

SBC. The recommendations of the Program and Structure Study Committee were approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta last June and will significantly alter the structure of the SBC.

Chapman said the management of orderly change within the convention, including changes in governing documents such as constitutions, bylaws, charters, and the SBC Organizational Manual, will create heavier workloads than the present staff of the Executive Committee can manage.

Staff changes

John S. Allen has accepted the pastorate of **Mullins Station Church, Memphis**, effective Sept. 24. He previously served First Church, Richton, for 13 years. Allen formerly served New Zion Church, Tylertown, for two years. A native of Moorhead, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary.

County Line Church, Jones Association, honored **Marvin Dean** with special services on Aug. 27 upon his retirement. Dean

worked for 15 years in the radio/electronics field at Keesler AFB. He resigned in 1963 after surrendering to the ministry in August 1962. He moved to Hattiesburg to attend William Carey College and was asked to serve as interim pastor at County Line Church in 1964, and then was called as pastor in January 1965. His entire tenure as a pastor was at County Line Church. Available for supply preaching and interim work, he can be contacted at 114 Waller Street, Petal, MS 39465 or call (601) 583-2358.



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Beloved father, minister remembered in special way during funeral service

By George D. Berger

Rawls Springs Church near Hattiesburg was full of family and friends Sept. 12 for the funeral of Billy Greene.

The service was not one of mourning but of celebration and victory. Billy Greene lived life celebrating victory in Christ.

After serving at Rawls Springs Church; Mt. Zion Church, Independence; and for 22 years as pastor of Whitesand Church, Jeff Davis Association, Billy and his wife Bess Ann retired in Rawls Springs.

The congregation knew this was to be a different funeral service when it started with a quartet singing "Holy Ground."

The quartet consisted of Billy's daughter Mary Magyar and her husband Paul, as well as Billy's son John and his wife Beth.

Rawls Springs Church pastor Rodney Crutchfield welcomed the congregation and set the tone for the upbeat worship event.

Clyde Caraway, minister of music at Rawls Springs Church,

led a congregational hymn.

Evangelist Billy Smith, Bess Ann's brother, brought a brief message.



Greene

Billy's great love for missions and how Billy worked to raise missions giving at each of the churches he pastored.

Wesley said that because of Billy's love for missions, two men would be standing by the door at the end of the service holding offering plates for donations to the Margaret Lackey Offering.

The service continued with duets by each of the couples in the quartet.

Another of Billy's sons, Richard, read from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament.

Former roommate Charles Stubblefield brought a message and concluded by inviting all

present to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The congregation sang "Because He Lives" as they filed out of the church past the men with the offering plates.

A total of \$1,085 was given that day to the Margaret Lackey Offering. To God be the glory.

Berger is director of missions for Lebanon Association, Hattiesburg.



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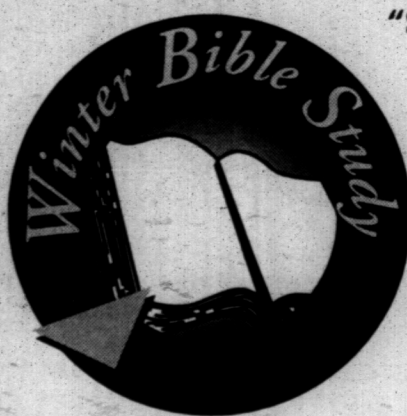
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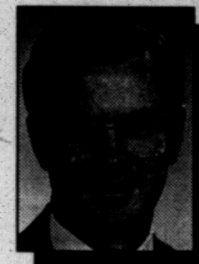


"Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you..."

Amos 5:14 (NAS)

1996 WINTER BIBLE STUDY

AMOS: Repentance or Run



Ken Parker



Waylon Bailey

DATE: October 10, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

TEACHERS: Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, LA
adult leadership leader

Ken Parker, BSSB curriculum product development specialist
youth leadership leader

COST: None

LUNCH: Complimentary of MBCB Sunday School Department

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

For more information, contact Larry Salter, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 21, 1995

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

MISSISSIPPI SINGING CHURCHMEN



MISSISSIPPI'S PREMIER
MEN'S CHOIR
will soon be in your area
IN CONCERT



The Mississippi Singing Churchmen
will be at:

FBC, Hernando • October 2 at 7 p.m.

North Oxford BC • October 3 at 7 p.m.

Call the Church Music Department, MBCB, for further details: 1-800-748-1651 or
in Jackson at 968-3800

My Mission Zone



BNF Retreat

October 6-7, 1995

Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Mississippi

Friday, 4:00 p.m. - Saturday, noon
Cost: \$23 - Bring linens and towels

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Ethics of Nursing in the 90's - Dr. Paul Jones
Chalk and Nursing! - Randy White
Low-Impact Aerobics - Pamela Smith

-SHARING-

Mission Trips ■ Prayer Concerns ■ Refuel
Relax ■ Renew

Kay Brown will be sharing about the
Honduras Mission Trip
Information will be shared about the
Special Rio Grande Emphasis

BNF Tenth Anniversary Kickoff!!!

NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

For more information contact the WMU Department
of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson
or 1-800-748-1651.

MEN...PLEASE NOTE

The November 2 and 3 Men's
Conference originally scheduled for
Ramada Inn SW, Jackson, will not
be held this year.

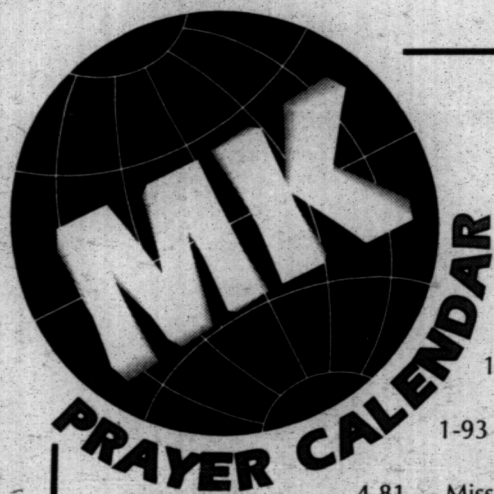
Pray this day...

October 1-21

October...the change of seasons is one of the beautiful blessings of Mississippi...new foliage colors, new weather patterns, completing of harvests, planning already for the next one, special events all around to celebrate life...let's praise God for all of this as we pray this day....

Prayer Ministry Office
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904
Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

for churches and individuals in their support of the Cooperative Program; October is Cooperative Program Month	for the Baptist Building Staff during this, their AT HOME WEEK, at home in their offices every day, rather than being out on the field	with missionaries Karl and Peggy Wallace in Colombia as they pray for a missionary to direct the literature ministry in the Baptist Book Deposit in Bogota	for missionaries Charles and Suzie Collins and their family in Suriname, especially the effect that the declining economy there has on the people with whom they work, thus affecting the total mission work	for New Staff Day and DOM Update at the Baptist Building, a time of fellowship and information for staff members new to churches in Mississippi	for two activities at Camp Garaywa this weekend - Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat and the Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf	for missionaries Don and Teresa Bolls in Niger Republic, as Don writes and gets approval for an agriculture project for tube wells for individual families, and as Teresa and Pandy Pass teach classes in the new community center
that we'll all be generous in our gifts to World Hunger Funds on this special day	for MKs who wish for a close friend and who wish to have fun learning in school - this request comes from Don and Anne Dent children, Rob and Chesi in Singapore, where they live the position of associate to area director of FMB	for the State Winter Bible Study Preview sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at First Baptist Church, Jackson, today from 9:30 - 3:30	for missionaries W.V. and Peggy Hart in Yemen	for missionaries Stanley and Glenna Stamps in Honduras, especially as they continue to lead the Macedonia Baptist Church, Santa Rita; there is great need for a construction team to construct a building there	for those attending the GA Mother/Daughter Overnight at Camp Garaywa this weekend	for churches involved in Poverty Awareness Day
for new missionary appointees, especially our Mississippi folks, who are in the Learning Center in Virginia for orientation and preparation for life in a new culture	for missionaries in their witness to women; Dave and Robin Parks, missionaries in Japan, ask our prayer in that area of Robin's work	for missionaries Fred and Sue Massingill in Senegal - they serve as dorm parents at Dakar Academy for MKs who come from all over West Africa to live in the dorm	for Student Day at the Baptist Building tomorrow	for the Brown-Davis Conference at the Baptist Building today	for the Church Media Library Conference at First Baptist Church, Louisville, today and tomorrow	for some special member of your family who needs an extra encouragement



NOVEMBER

The numbers indicate the day of the month and the year of birth. For instance, 1-74 means November 1, 1974.

- 1-74 — Mr. Keith Leech, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4581, Clinton, MS 39058; Parents: Marvin & Linda, Theological Education, SERVE IN INDONESIA
- 1-77 — Miss Michelle L. Vaughn, Caixa Postal 625, 95001-970 Caxias do Sul, RS, BRAZIL; Parents: John & Kathy, General Evangelism
- 1-93 — Miss Caitlyn Braswell, Rua Barbosa da Cunha 138, Jd. Guanabara, 130173-320 Campinas, SP, BRAZIL; Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism
- 4-81 — Miss Lucy M. Graves, Casilla 1417, Concepcion, CHILE; Parents: Eddie & Marilyn, General Evangelism
- 5-85 — Miss Bethany G. Fortenberry, P. O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA; Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism
- 6-86 — Miss Ashley G. Thompson, 33 Oberermarkt Str., 98646 Hildburghausen, GERMANY; Parents: Lonnie & Debbie, General Evangelism
- 9-78 — Miss Jennifer L. Glaze, Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA; Parents: David & Gloria, Media Promotion
- 11-88 — Mr. Steven J. May, 2166 Ridgeway Rd., Memphis, TN 38118-6313; Parents: Stan & Iva, General Evangelism, SERVE IN ZIMBABWE
- 13-84 — Mr. Paul W. Harrison, Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS; Parents: Frank, & Phoebe, Youth Evangelism
- 14-83 — Miss Eva N. Carlisle, Casilla 14052, 11700 Montevideo, URUGUAY; Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
- 14-81 — Miss Christina Jones, 875 Adams Drive, Greenville, MS 38703-6060; Parents: Eddie & Barbara, Pastor
- 16-86 — Mr. Nathaniel D. Carlisle, Casilla 14052, 11700 Montevideo, URUGUAY; Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism
- 17-81 — Miss Sonya M. Bailey, Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA; Parents: Kenneth & Ruth, Theological Education
- 18-85 — Mr. Jonathan O. May, 2166 Ridgeway Road, Memphis, TN 38118-6313; Parents: Stanley & Iva, General Evangelism; SERVE IN ZIMBABWE
- 21-79 — Mr. Wesley A. Johnson, 1-15-1 Momochi, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka-shi 814, JAPAN; Parents: Dave & Robin, University Education
- 21-86 — Mr. Greg Rumsey, 4527 A Seminary Place, New Orleans, LA 70126; Parents: David & Pamela K., Field Personnel Assistance
- 27-85 — Miss Stacia Corey, 7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520; Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance

Preschool: Beginning the JOURNEY

September 22-23, 1995
First Baptist Church, Oxford

Friday Night 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Teaching Christian Values in a Secular World
A parenting class open to all parents of preschoolers
Led by Kathy Burns, Mission Friends Specialist, WMU, SBC

7:00-8:00 General Session
8:00-8:10 Stand-up Break
8:10-until Question & Answer Time

Saturday 9:30-Noon

Charting Your Spiritual Path
For all preschool leaders,
Led by Kathy Burns

9:30-10:45 General Session
10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-Noon Choosing Your Direction—
Leaders will be able to choose one of four leadership conferences to attend: Mission Friends, Sunday School, Discipleship Training, or Music

For more information, contact the WMU department of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSE TOPS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

First Baptist Church, Jackson
Monday, October 30, 1995
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

† Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information and
Support for the Minister's Wife!

† There is no cost for this conference.

† Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis.
Please use registration form to schedule child care by
October 23.

††† Program Personnel †††

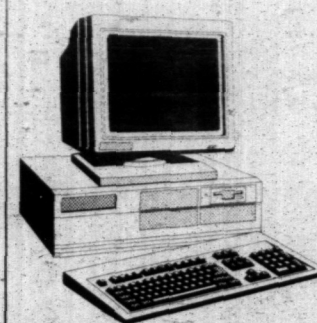
Dottie Hudson - Minister's Wife; Associate Minister
of Counseling/Family Ministry,
FBC, Jackson

Ron Mumbower - Ordained Minister;
Marriage and Family Counseling,
FBC, Jackson

† Registration Form †

Complete the registration form and return to Julius C. Thompson, Church
Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name _____	Home Phone No. _____	
Church _____	Association _____	
Home Address _____	City _____	Zip _____
Husband's Position _____		
Names and birth dates of children you will bring _____		



SBCNET / CompuServe Training Conference

Dates and Locations

(All times will be 10 am - noon)

Tues. September 26
MS Baptist Convention Building,
Jackson (Sky Room)

Mon. October 9
First Baptist Church, Tupelo

Tues. October 10
Lauderdale Baptist Association Office,
Meridian

Thurs. October 12
First Baptist Church, Wiggins

Purpose:

To train CompuServe and SBCNet Users
to effectively use it in ministry.

Audience:

Users of CompuServe/SBCNet and
those interested in joining
CompuServe/SBCNet

Items to be discussed:

- CompuServe Basics
 - Setting up CompuServe
 - Mail
 - Basic Services
 - Managing Cost
- SBCNet Basics
 - Libraries
 - Messages
 - Conferencing
- Internet
- Future of SBCNet and the MS Library.



For more information
about this special
training, contact David
Wills at the MBCB at
968-3800 in Jackson or
1-800-748-1651.

Make An Early New Year's Resolution...

Resolve to involve your **YOUTH** in the **CONDUCTING/ INSTRUMENTAL/ VOCAL FESTIVAL**

- ☞ January 18, 1996 • 6-8 p.m.,
University BC, Hattiesburg
- ☞ January 23, 1996 • 6-8 p.m.,
North Oxford BC, Oxford
- ☞ January 23, 1996 • 6-8 p.m.,
The Baptist Building, Jackson



RESOLVE FOR YOUR YOUTH TO (10th-12th graders) singing solos, leading hymns, and playing their instruments for a panel of ministers of music; receiving their encouraging comments... and possibly being invited to participate in the State Four-Part Festival.

YOUR YOUTH COULD BE RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Partial scholarships to Gulfshore, Ridgecrest or Glorieta Music Conferences
- \$200.00 college music scholarships (doubled when used at a Mississippi Baptist college)

VOCAL FESTIVAL: Sing two selections.

CONDUCTING FESTIVAL: Direct three hymns or conduct an anthem or instrumental ensemble (on the advanced level).

INSTRUMENTAL FESTIVAL: Play a solo piece of literature.
(Woodwind, Brass, Strings, Pitched Percussion)

For further information and registration forms, refer to your 1995 Youth Ministry Book, or contact your Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

RESOLVE FOR YOUR YOUTH TO SING, LEAD HYMNS AND PLAY INSTRUMENTS IN THEIR OWN CHURCHES!

Lay Missions Conference



*Marketplace
Ministry:
"New Beginnings"*

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

+++++

October 30, 1995
First Baptist Church, Jackson

*Conferences begin at 3 p.m.
Banquet begins at 5 p.m.*

+++++

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

For more information concerning this conference contact Neron Smith, consultant, Missions Extension-Associational Administration Department; or for banquet reservations contact Gail Wood, Brotherhood Department. Both Neron and Gail can be reached toll free in Mississippi at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

HOUSE TOPS

Homecomings

Brooksville Church, Brooksville, will have Memorial Day Services on Sept. 24. Wayne Barrett, former pastor, will speak at the morning service. Lunch will be served; the church will host an afternoon singing. Cornell Daughtry is pastor.

38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, will host William J. Murray on Sept. 22-25, at 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday; and Monday at 7 p.m. at the University of Southern Mississippi's Bennett Auditorium. Murray is the son of atheist and Marxist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair. For more information call (601) 264-3897.

The Mississippi College Chamber Choir will perform Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at First Church, McComb, under the direction of Richard Joiner, head of MC's Music Department. The 33-voice choir performed a *cappella* masterworks, spirituals, and hymn arrangements in June at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and has been invited to perform at the American Choral Directors' Regional Convention in Norfolk, Va., in February.

Robert Dunn will be honored for 41 years of service as a pastor,

the last-eight as pastor of Dublin Church, Jeff Davis Association. A reception will be held Sept. 24 at Dublin Church, 2-4 p.m. Dunn will be available for interim pastor, Bible study, or revivals. His phone number is (601) 587-4611.

The William Carey College Theatre will present "Sleeping Beauty" as dramatized by Michele Vacca as its annual play for children. The production is co-sponsored by the Hattiesburg Arts Council, and is directed by Shannon Robert of the WCC faculty. Performances in the O.L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus are: Sept. 21, 7 p.m.; Sept. 22, 1:30 and 7 p.m.; and Sept. 23, 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. The box office is open daily from 1-4 p.m. For reservations, call (601) 582-6221. All tickets are \$3 each.

Terri Lynn and Ken Holoway, Christian country artists, will be in concert at the Covington-Jefferson Davis Association Center Family Life Building at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 23. They will also be in concert at Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, on Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. For more information call David McPhail at (601) 544-1400.

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Weathersby, Mendenhall: Sept. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; singing in afternoon with the Obadiah Quartet; Joe Royalty, guest speaker; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

Memorial, Richton: Sept. 24; 55th anniversary; services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; 2 p.m. service; Leonard Walters, pastor.

New Providence (Copiah): Sept. 24; Sunday morning, regular services; lunch will be served; 1:30 p.m. singing; Johnny Sykes, McComb, guest speaker; James D. Whittington, pastor.

Beulah, Lexington: Sept. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; The Spokesmen, guest singers; Jeff Howell, Calhoun City, guest speaker; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

Belden (Lee): Sept. 24; ser-

vices, 8:30-10:30 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Don Baggett, pastor.

Bethesda, Union Church: Sept. 24; 150th anniversary; 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; afternoon singing; Gary Creech, Summit, guest speaker; Tim Hudson, Laurel, and The Cornerstones, music.

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Sept. 24; 102nd anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; C.D. Blackwell, Pascagoula, and Leon Young, Walnut Grove, guest speakers; Deanna Kemp, Forest, guest singer; Billy Whitekar, pastor.

Hope, Philadelphia: Sept. 24; 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Doug Broome, Waynesboro, guest speaker; Gwenette Broome and singers, Waynesboro, music; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Sunrise, Carthage: Sept. 24; 11 a.m.; dinner, noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Howard Curbow, Fulton,

former pastor, guest speaker; Watchmen Quartet, Jackson, music; Frank Smith, pastor.

Hebron, Sardis: Sept. 24; services start at 10 a.m.; covered dish luncheon at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Kenny Adair, New Albany, guest speaker; Cecil Foster, interim pastor.

Antioch, Union: Sept. 24; 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Albert McMullen, Stonewall, guest speaker; Kevin and Tabitha Thompson, guest singers; James E. Young, pastor.

First, Lucedale: Oct. 1; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; 1:30 afternoon singing with The Blackwood Brothers; David Byrd, Cuba, Ala., guest speaker; John Turner, pastor.

Pecan Grove, Ellisville: Sept. 24; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; Dave Moran, pastor.

Revival Dates

McDowell Road, Jackson: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; LaRue Stephens, pastor.

Belden (Lee): Sept. 24-27; services, 7 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, evangelist; Joe Scott, Belden Church, music; Donald Baggett, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Sept. 24-28; services, 7 p.m.; James Lewis, New Albany, evangelist; Gary Thorne, Chunky Church, music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Byram, Jackson: Sept. 25-29; services, 7 p.m.; youth rally, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.; Rob Pelkey, Laurel,

evangelist; Don Bond, Semmes, Ala., music; Robert Andrews, pastor.

Salem, Preston: Sept. 24-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch following services, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Greg Foster, Pascagoula, evangelist; Travis Watkins, Lake, music; Janet Fulgham, Eupora, pianist; Charles McCollum, pastor.

New Salem, Columbus: Sept. 24-27; services, 7 p.m. nightly and 11 a.m. on Sunday; "C.W." Gary Jackson and First Love Revival singing;

Emmanuel, Grenada: Oct. 1-4; services, noon and 7 p.m. each day; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, evangelist; Barry J. Worrell,

Emmanuel, guest soloist; Clarence Cooper Jr., pastor.

Calvary Canton: Oct. 1-4; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Richardson, Jackson, evangelist; James Lister, Madison, music; Jim Hurt, pastor.

Crossview, Brandon: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship and noon meal; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Williams, Richland, guest speaker; Bill Rice, music; Don Williams, pastor.

Hermanville, Hermanville: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship, noon potluck luncheon, 7 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; former pastor Floyd V. Riggs, Henderson, Nev., evangelist; James Minnis Jr., pastor.

First, Leland: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheon and 7 p.m.; Stan Fornea, Clinton, guest speaker; Ray and Trudy Hatton, Memphis, music; Jon Doler, pastor.

Crestview, Petal: Sept. 24-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Mike Routon, Petal, evangelist; Jerry Wayne Lowery, music.

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Uniform Boldness to obey



By Andy Brasher
Acts 4:32-5:42

In the face of persecution, how faithful would your obedience be to Christ? For most of us, confrontation brings about compromise! This is shamefully true at all levels of our Christian walk. Even though, unlike the early church, we are not beaten, arrested, or exiled from our community due to our faith, there is still a subtle level of persecution that exists.

Every time we compromise our moral and ethical standards, we submit to Satan's perverted and even pseudo-religious order. In those situations, where compromise would be expedient, do we stick to our guns or put them aside like everyone else? Are we willing to risk ridicule, judgment, and condemnation for our so-called "anti-social" behavior for the ultimate joy of being a follower of Christ? In our lesson this week, that is the dilemma the disciples faced.

The lifestyle of the early church could best be described as charitable. We are told that many who had believed sold their entire possessions, and gave the money to the apostles for them to distribute to each person within the Christian community according to individual need. This was true "social security." Other distinguishing factors of the early Christians were their unity, loyalty, and zeal to Christ and each other (4:32-33). Many, such as the Levite named Barnabas from Cyprus, sold his land and brought the money to the apostles for disbursement (4:36,37).

In each instance of personal sacrifice joy, not hardship, was the prevailing emotion. The motive, for the most part, was charity, not ego aggrandizement. However, like in any other formative organization, individuals often have pretentious motives based on power, greed, and control. Undoubtedly this was the case with Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-2).

In the case of this couple, both had conspired to sell their land, retain a portion of the profit, and give the rest as if it were all to the church (5:3). How Peter uncovered their conspiracy is a mystery, but Peter denounced them and leveled against them the charge of lying to the Holy Spirit (5:3-4). Luke records that both Ananias and Sapphira were struck down, not so much by God, but the fear of what God would do (5:5,11).

The apostles were zealous advocates of Jesus Christ, especially of his resurrection (4:33). Many miracles were taking place among the people and the crowds grew (5:12-14). In a short period of time, this new movement had quickly become a populist revival capturing the hearts of the people.

The Sanhedrin looked disdainfully upon this insurgence. Filled with jealousy, the Sadducees had the apostles jailed, probably in a holding room somewhere in the temple (5:17). The arrest was short-lived. For that very night, an angel of the Lord came unto them, opened the gates, and told them to "go" and preach the "message of life" (5:20).

The next morning, upon the summons of the Sanhedrin, the prisoners were not to be found. The apostles had been sighted where they had been the day before, at Solomon's portico preaching to the people (5:25). This time, the sagan or captain of the temple police took charge, arrested the apostles, and brought them before the council (5:27). The Sanhedrin had forbidden them from preaching his "name" to the people (5:28). Evidently, the council couldn't bring themselves to even say the name of Jesus. In the apostles' defense, Peter exhorted that "we must obey God rather than men." This cut to the heart of the Sanhedrin and they were moved in anger to slay them (5:33-34).

Gamaliel, the leader of the rabbis, the teacher of Saul, and the only moderate voice, arose in the midst of flaring tempers and argued by reason for tolerance (5:33-34). He reasoned that if the movement was truly from God, it could not be thwarted (5:39). Gamaliel cited examples of failed movements and suggested that tolerance rather than execution would be more expedient (5:36-37). The Sanhedrin, no doubt influenced by Gamaliel and the popularity of the sect, agreed (5:40). After each received a flogging, the apostles were released, rejoicing as they left, and continued preaching Jesus to the people (5:40-42).

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book Visions of victory



By Larry McDonald
Daniel 9, 12

Stephen Miller said Daniel 9:24-27 are "four of the most controversial verses in the Bible." Joyce Baldwin called them "the most difficult text in the book." It is impossible for me to cover all of the perspectives of these verses because of the complexities of the different positions taken. It is my goal to simply present the passage as I believe Daniel meant it as he wrote.

The message Daniel received was from the angel Gabriel. It was a message concerning what would happen to the nation of Israel during a period of 490 years (70 sevens — 9:24). These 490 years were broken into three time periods. Gabriel identified six goals God had for the Holy City and for God's covenant people during the entire 490-year time period. They are found in 9:24. The first three relate to the removal of sin and the second three to the restoration of righteousness.

The six goals are:

1. To finish transgression.
2. To put an end to sin.
3. To atone for wickedness.
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness.
5. To seal up vision and prophecy.
6. To anoint the most holy.

These six goals will not all be fulfilled until the arrival of the future kingdom of God.

The first time period was for 49 years (seven sevens — 9:25). This period began with the command to rebuild Jerusalem and ended with the completion of the work. This took place during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

The second time period was for 434 years (62 sevens — 9:25). This period began with the completion of the first period and extended to Christ's first coming. The ending of this second period is associated with the beginning of Christ's public ministry at baptism. After the completion of this period, Daniel indicated the "Anointed One" would be cut off and the city and temple destroyed (9:26). This was referring to Christ's death on the cross and the fall of Jerusalem.

There is an interlude between the second and third time periods. With Israel rejecting the Messiah, the gospel message was focused toward the Gentiles. This interlude time will stop with the rapture of the church (1 Thes. 4:17).

The third time period is for seven years (one seven — 9:27). This period will begin with the rapture of the church and will be completed at the second coming of Christ as he will establish his earthly kingdom for a thousand-year reign (Rev. 20:1-4). This third time period was described as "an abomination that causes desolation." This phrase was also used by Jesus (Matt. 24:15).

James Montgomery Boice gives two insightful conclusions to this passage. First, God has a timetable in world history, and he is working carefully according to that plan. This does not mean that we are always able to understand his timetable or see his plan. But we know that he is unfolding his timetable and that one day Jesus Christ will come and all who are in rebellion against him and his kingdom will be judged. Today is a day of God's mercy. But it is not an endless day.

Second, although God works according to his own timetable without deviation, he nevertheless also works through people. This is another way of saying that what we do for God and in obedience to God counts. We may not see how it counts, but we know it does. Who knows what God might be doing through us or someone we influence?

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

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Life and Work Salvation: What now?



By Bob Rogers
Romans 6

Preaching salvation by grace through faith is dangerous. Someone might get the idea that he can run wild in sin, since salvation is by God's grace, not human deeds. Romans 6:1 indicates that Paul's accusers made that charge, for Paul said, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"

Romans 6 balances this corruption of grace by teaching how grace produces godliness.

Responsibility in the Christian life. Verses 12-14 tell Christians what we are responsible to do, now that we are saved. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body" (v. 12). We are to refuse to allow sin to rule our lives.

How do we do that? The answer comes in verse 13: "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin... but rather offer yourselves to God."

Christians must take daily responsibility for making choices about sin. What will we put into our bodies? How will we spend our money? What places will we go? In every decision, we are to offer ourselves to God.

Don't misunderstand; this does not mean that a Christian will no longer sin. But it does mean that the Christian must take responsibility for saying "no" to sin and saying "yes" to godliness. Titus 2:11-12 says that this grace which saves us also "teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age."

Reason for the Christian life. Why are Christians responsible for living differently? Why would we want to be different when we are saved by grace, not law? What motivation does grace give for us to say "no" to sin?

Chapter 6 of Romans gives three reasons for living a godly Christian life. Verses 3-4 give the reason for a believer's baptism, our public identification with Christ. Baptism dips our desire toward God, because we have stepped across the line and declared our loyalty to Christ.

Verses 5-10 gives the reason of Christ's example. Since Christ has died and risen for us, we should want to die to self and live for him. Fisher Humphreys once told my theology class at New Orleans Seminary, "If Christ hanging on the cross won't motivate you to serve God, nothing will!"

Verses 15-19 give the reason that when we are set free from sin, we are voluntarily enslaved to godliness. "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (v. 18).

This analogy of slavery is not a perfect analogy, because normally a slave has no choice in who his master will be. That's why Paul says, "I put this in human terms" (v. 19). He's using a human illustration to teach us a heavenly truth.

When a person trusts in Jesus Christ to free him from the penalty and power of sin, that person is also accepting Jesus as his new Master. We are motivated to live a godly life because we have rejected sin as our Master and have willingly accepted Jesus as Master.

Result of the Christian life. In verses 21-23, Paul shows the result of all this. He draws a comparison between the wicked lifestyle of someone in slavery to sin, and the holy lifestyle of someone in slavery to God. The verses could be charted as follows:

Slavery to:	Sin	Righteousness
Reaping:	shame	holiness
Resulting in:	death	eternal life
Received as:	a wage	a gift

Verse 23 thus sums up the whole message: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Since the gift that God offers is eternal life in heaven, the wage that sin pays refers to eternal death in hell, called the "second death" in Revelation 20:14.

Being lost pays a terrible penalty, but being saved has a terrific prize. So now that you are saved (if you are), live like it!

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
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ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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capsules

FMB VICE PRESIDENT NAMED TO BWA EVANGELISM EFFORT: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board's vice president for mission personnel has been named as a special assistant to Nilson Fanini, the newly elected president of the Baptist World Alliance. Thurmon E. Bryant and a team of mainly Southern Baptists, named by Fanini and Bryant, will begin working to help develop an evangelism focus with Fanini and the BWA. The evangelism focus is an addition to ongoing programs worldwide through the BWA's evangelism and education division. Fanini, a Brazilian pastor, was elected to a five-year term as BWA president in August. He challenged Baptists meeting in Buenos Aires for the Baptist World Congress to engage in a coordinated effort to reach the world with the gospel through the year 2000. Bryant, 65, will remain on the Foreign Mission Board payroll and continue to work out of the board's Richmond, Va., offices.

TEXAS BAPTIST BOARD RECOMMENDS \$1.5 MILLION FOR NEW CHURCHES: DALLAS (BP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board voted Sept. 12 to recommend a 1996 Texas Baptist Cooperative Program budget of \$42,688,625, including a 2.5% increase for home mission work in Texas, or \$1.5 million, to help start 1,400 new churches in the next five years. The budget proposal, adopted with only two dissenting votes, is subject to approval by messengers to the BGCT annual meeting in San Antonio, Nov. 13-14. The recommended budget calls for Texas Baptists to use 67% of Cooperative Program receipts in the state rather than the current 64.5%. Thirty-three percent would go to worldwide causes.

ALABAMA BOARD WEIGHS FUNDING OF SAMFORD, UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE: TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Despite the unanimous approval of a record Cooperative Program budget for 1996, the decision by Alabama Baptists' state board of missions did not come easily. Before approving a \$31 million basic budget, board members spent more than two hours debating whether to include Samford University and the University of Mobile in the proposed budget to be presented at the Nov. 14-15 annual meeting in Montgomery. Troy Morrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the state board of missions, said Samford University was in violation of the bylaws of the Alabama State Convention since trustees changed the charter of that university without convention approval. He noted bylaws prevent entities in violation of the bylaws from participating in the Cooperative Program budget. "I am in a dilemma," Morrison said. "I do not want to hurt the institutions, but I cannot recommend a budget that violates the convention's bylaws." Samford University's portion of the proposed budget amounts to \$4,100,460. The University of Mobile is scheduled to receive \$1,908,175.

ANNUITY BOARD SAYS IRS DECISION WILL HIT RETIRED MINISTERS: DALLAS (BP) — A recent decision by the Internal Revenue Service to consider retired ministers' housing allowance as subject to self-employment tax (SECA) is drawing fire from leaders at the Annuity Board. Paul Powell, Annuity Board president, said the IRS action is "contrary to" previous IRS policy, such as those in "private letter rulings and IRS Publication 517.... It is the opinion of the Annuity Board... that a housing allowance, as part of one's retirement benefit, is not 'net earnings' and is not subject to the burdensome SECA tax for Social Security that ordained ministers pay while employed," Powell wrote in "A Pastoral Letter" dated Aug. 25 to the board's ministerial participants. The recent IRS action came with the long-awaited public release of a manual that instructs IRS examiners on how to audit ministers. The audit manual was released as part of the IRS's "Market Segment Specialization Program" in which ministers are one of 31 "industries" targeted for special scrutiny.

THE WORD IS OUT... ON BROADWAY: NEW YORK (NORTH AMERICAN PRECIS SYNDICATE) — From inspired message to most recent translation — the story of the Bible is a fascinating one and one told well by the multimedia exhibits at the American Bible Society Gallery in New York City. Featured in the exhibits are: animated dioramas of the life of Christ; a panoramic wall representing an ancient scroll from the Qumran caves, including a map of the Dead Sea and surrounding area, and an enlarged replica of ancient Hebrew text; a mini-theater showing "The Word of God... Alive and Active," a multi-media presentation on the history of the English Bible; interactive computer kiosks with new media translations of Bible stories and learning games; an exact replica of Johann Gutenberg's 1450 printing press with the moveable type that made the Bible more available to everyone; and the American Bible Society Research Library, featuring more than 50,000 copies of the Scriptures in more than 2,000 languages. For more information on the American Bible Society and the ABS Gallery, write to American Bible Society, News Bureau, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

Speaker lists precautions churches should take against potential abuse

OWENSBORO, Ky. (BP) — Churches must take all the precautions they can to reduce their vulnerability to criminal predators such as child molesters and to criminal opportunists looking for an easy lawsuit to file, according to Mary Sells, minister to children at Highview Church, Louisville, Ky.

Sells led a session on "Legal Issues in the Ministry to Preschoolers and Children" during Kentucky Baptists' Super Saturday event at First Church,

Owensboro on Aug. 12.

She cited three reasons the church is vulnerable:

— The church exists as a community of trust.

— Most churches are "ignorant of the facts" of abuse and "are not aware of what's going on in the real world."

— Most churches lack appropriate safeguards, because they never have thought about what is the best way to ensure safety and security for children in their care.

Increased attention to legal

liability has caused most businesses and organizations in American society to be more careful and cautious, Sells noted. "There's not any organization left that's vulnerable — except the church."

This creates the perfect environment both for the abusive adult and for the person looking to level false claims and file a quick lawsuit, Sells said. She urged churches to "take all the precautions you can" to prevent either problem.

Even if a false claim is filed, the resulting media coverage and turmoil within the church can be devastating to a congregation, Sells explained.

The best advice is to create situations where abuse cannot easily happen and where false claims cannot easily be made, she said.

Among suggestions offered by Sells and others in the conference:

— Implement some form of child claim-check program, so that only the parent who drops off a preschool child is allowed to pick up that child.

— Know where you can locate a doctor or nurse at all times.

— Keep a first aid kit in an accessible location in the church.

— Never leave one worker alone with children or youths, both for the protection of the children and of the worker.

— Don't allow anyone to be a teacher in children's classes until he or she has been a church member at least six months.

— Develop screening forms for hired staff and volunteers in the children's area. Ask pertinent questions of all workers, and be willing to verify a newcomer's character with his or her previous church.

— Install interior windows or glass doors between classrooms and other open areas.

— Avoid creating obscure nooks and crannies or out-of-the-way classrooms where abuse could be perpetrated or alleged without possibility of a witness.

— Develop permission forms for parents to sign when church groups take children away from the building or on overnight trips.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Last year I drifted away from the Lord and did things that hurt my two best friends. I miss them and want to regain their friendship. How can I do that?

Harold Dawley provides a summary of the rules of friendship in his book, **Friendship: How to Make and Keep Friends:**

- Like yourself.
- Reach out.
- Make contact.
- Be pleasant.
- Get to know people.
- Let people know you.
- Get through to people.
- Get along with people.

Reveal yourself to your two friends and let them know of your desire to rekindle the friendships. They must be able to understand you as you really are. Practice what you want to say to them to minimize confusion and misunderstanding. Be honest and ask them for forgiveness. If they do not respond, you have done what you must do to restore the friendships and now they must decide what they want.

My husband recently confessed to adultery with ten women over the past 20 years. I have forgiven him, but how can I

get out of my mind the thoughts of him with these other women?

You have taken the first step in overcoming these thoughts by forgiving him. Many women will read this and wonder how you were able to do that, but such thoughts can be the devil's workshop. You must be willing to do battle and "... take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5, NIV). Remember these concepts as you seek to control your thoughts:

Time. Forgiveness takes time as the violator proves he is again trustworthy.

Work at it. The 12th chapter of Romans in the New Testament encourages us to work toward renewal of our minds. What you choose to think will control you, so be prepared to replace negative thoughts with Scripture and positive thoughts of how your husband is demonstrating that he has changed.

Pray. Pray for your husband and yourself as you struggle through this difficult time. You are involved in holy work and can easily be tripped up by Satan — or self.

Express yourself. Don't be afraid to share your hurt with God and with your husband.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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WXI DVL AWKK LF GF, KBSI, KBSI, WXI IB XBY
YVF YVRXUH DVRAV R HWL?

KOCF HRN: EBSYL-HRN

This week's clue: I equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Eleven: One.

Baptist Record

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September 21, 1995